

REMARKS

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-11 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed toward non-patentable subject matter. Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite a computerized method and Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 22-26

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 22-26 stand rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1 and 9 because the body of the claims do not recite a connection with the preamble of the claims. Because Applicant does not intend for the preambles to be limiting, Applicant has amended the preambles of claims 1 and 9 to recite only a computerized method.

Independent claims 5 and 18 are computer-readable medium claims and stand rejected because the preambles do not recite the "type or kind" of method being performed by the computer. The Examiner appears to be asserting that the preamble of a computer-readable medium claim must recite a function to comply with §112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no such legal requirement for computer-readable medium claims. If the Examiner continues to assert the § 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 5 and 18, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner cite authority from 35 U.S.C., 37 C.F.R., or case law to support his rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 22-26 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17, 20, 22-24 and 26

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17, 20, 22-24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,847,980 to Benitez.

Benitez discloses entity-relationship models for audio visual data descriptions. However, Benitez does not teach or suggest defining a fuzzy relationship between entities within a multimedia sequence as claimed by Applicant in independent claims 1 and 5. Benitez does not teach or suggest deriving a confidence value for a fuzzy relationship as claimed in independent claims 9 and 18. Furthermore, Benitez does not teach or suggest modifying values to change the confidence of the fuzzy relationship as the multimedia sequence progresses, which is claimed by Applicant in claims 1, 5, 9 and 18.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17, 20, 22-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Benitez.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 16 and 25 contain allowable subject matter. Because Applicant believes all the claims are patentable, Applicant has not amended claims 16 and 25 in this response.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 22-26 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-3476.

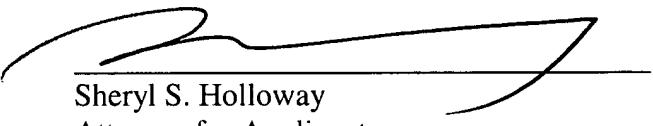
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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